

From: Regal, Robert
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/24/02 10:10am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello DoJ people,

First of all, I'd like to congratulate you on dealing with such a difficult case where there are undoubtedly vast amounts of behind the scenes plotting going on. However, in regards to the propose settlement, I would like to ask you to reconsider your stance on it. Please do not allow Microsoft to dominate the OS market anymore. As I'm sure you are aware, Microsoft does promote a standard platform which the majority of the world uses. Is this beneficial to the consumer, you must've asked? I do not believe that it is. The interoperability promoted by a world OS is a nice benefit of their monopoly, but is not worth the cost in innovation, security and quality. Microsoft has effectively squished numerous operating systems into niches each of which actually offer demonstrable technological advantages over Windows. I guess the real question is, has Microsoft used its monopoly to dominate other markets unfairly. This is obviously a yes. Why, because to gain a market share for any given product, all Microsoft has to do is integrate that product with their OS and they suddenly have an installed base of 90% of American computers. I find it supsicious that the OS industry is not differentiated into an oligopoly like the car industry, fast food industry or even other software sectors like accouting software (There are 3 or 4 dominant home accounting programs but none is remotely as dominant as Microsoft is).

Please reconsider,

Robert Regal

Also, don't allow that injection of Microsoft products into an environment not yet completely dominated by Windows. Competition is good. Microsoft does not promote this.